

Bacteriology for Nurses. By Isabel McIsaac, author of "Primary Nursing Technique," etc. The Macmillan Co., New York. 1909.

This book is one of a series of text-books for nurses, many of them by the same author. We imagine that bacteriology should be taught nurses with three ends in view: First, "general culture,"—such an acquaintance as anyone connected with the art of medicine should possess; second, the amount of practical knowledge which a surgical or office-nurse might require,—the preparation of dressings, sterilization, asepsis, etc.; third, a training in laboratory procedures,—preparation of media, examination of cultures, etc.,—which an office-nurse might well do, but which is not a part of the ordinary training. These requirements are adequately covered in the present volume, the first perhaps more satisfactorily than the other two.

J. L. W.

HONOR TO DR. COLBY RUCKER.

The many friends of Dr. William C. Rucker, Passed Assistant Surgeon in the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service, will be delighted to learn that he has been made a Fellow of the London Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, in recognition of his splendid work in fighting plague in California. The same honor has recently been conferred on Dr. Rupert Blue. California has expressed her gratitude to these men and it is pleasant to see that other lands are doing so as well.

TO THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

A gentleman of means has a member of his family afflicted with progressive muscular atrophy, the diagnosis having been with certainty established after consultation with some of the highest neurological authorities of New York City and various cities of Europe.

These physicians are unanimously of the opinion that the case is incurable, inasmuch as up to the present there has been published no form of treatment or medication which is known to have positively cured or arrested the inroads of this malady.

This gentleman wishes to spare no effort to bring relief. He believes that, perhaps, somewhere some physician may have successfully hit upon some method of curing a case of progressive muscular atrophy, but who, through his inability to corroborate his results, owing to rarity of cases or through modesty or for fear of being discredited, has failed to publish his case. This gentleman's idea is to try to bring this record to the surface by making an appeal to the profession through this journal.

The case itself presents the characteristic picture and is typical of progressive muscular atrophy in every particular. The patient is fifty years old; married; in excellent general health. About one and one-half years ago the disease made its appearance in the left hand, progressed, and within a few months involved the right hand. Its progress since has been very slow. The family of this patient wishes to announce that any physician who supplies a complete history and detailed description of the method of treatment of any case of progressive muscular atrophy he may have successfully treated, the trial of which leads to the cure or arrest of the disease in their relative, will be rewarded by a liberal cash prize.

Requests for further particulars and replies should be addressed to "Enquirer," care California State Journal of Medicine, 930 Butler Building, San Francisco.

ARMY MEDICAL CORPS EXAMINATION.

The Surgeon-General of the Army announces that preliminary examination of applicants for appointment as First Lieutenants in the Army Medical

Corps, will be held on July 18, 1910, at various army posts throughout the country.

Full information concerning the examination can be procured upon application to the "Surgeon-General, U. S. Army, Washington, D. C." The essential requirements to securing an application are that the applicant shall be a citizen of the United States, shall be between 22 and 30 years of age, a graduate of a medical school legally authorized to confer the degree of doctor of medicine, shall be of good moral character and habits, and shall have had at least one year's hospital training or its equivalent in practice. The examination will be held concurrently throughout the country at points where boards can be convened. Due consideration will be given to localities from which applications are received, in order to lessen the traveling expenses as much as possible.

The examination in subjects of general education (mathematics, geography, history, general literature and Latin) may be omitted in the case of applicants holding diplomas from reputable literary or scientific colleges, normal schools or high schools, or graduates of medical schools which require an entrance examination satisfactory to the faculty of the Army Medical School.

In order to perfect all necessary arrangements for the examination, applications must be complete and in possession of the Adjutant-General on or before June 27, 1910. Early attention is therefore enjoined upon all intending applicants. There are at present 123 vacancies in the Medical Corps of the Army.

NEW AND NON-OFFICIAL REMEDIES.

SULPHO-LYTHIN.

Abstract from the report of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association (Journal A. M. A., Dec. 8, 1905, page 1930).

The following report was submitted to the Council by the subcommittee which examined Sulpho-Lythin:

To the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry:—The following report on Sulpho-Lythin is herewith submitted:

Sulpho-Lythin is sold by the Laine Chemical Company, New York. In the literature sent to physicians it is said: "This product, the sulphophosphite of sodium and lithium (non-effervescent) is entirely new and is unique in its action."

Chemical analysis of a specimen of Sulpho-Lythin purchased in the open market, indicated its composition to be:

Sodium sulphate, anhydrous.....	10.51
Disodium hydrogen phosphate, anhydrous.....	56.67
Sodium thiosulphate, anhydrous	20.78
Sodium chlorid	5.98
Lithium, as citrate	3.12
Sulphur, free	0.16
Moisture	1.53
Loss	1.25

The examination, therefore, shows that Sulpho-Lythin is a mixture consisting mainly of sodium sulphate, sodium phosphate, and sodium thiosulphate. The statement that it is a "sulphophosphite of sodium and lithium," therefore, is not correct, and a statement that "it is entirely new and is unique in its action" appears unwarranted and misleading. It is, therefore, recommended that the preparation be refused recognition. It is also recommended that an article be prepared for publication calling attention to the exaggerated claims made for Sulpho-Lythin.

The recommendations of the subcommittee were adopted by the Council, and in accordance therewith the report is published, with the following comments.

W. A. PUCKNER, Secretary.